

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7665

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7902

LIMDIS

FOR MOOSE FROM HARROP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PBOR, SO, KE, ET, DJ

SUBJ: DEMARCHE ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KENYA AND SOMALIA

REF: STATE 127771

1. AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP, AND DCM MET MAY 24 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI, HIS PERMANENT SECRETARY, AND OTHER AIDES. VICE PRESIDENT MOI IS OUT OF TOWN.

2. HARROP CAREFULLY COVERED ALL POINTS IN REFTEL, STRESSING THE LIMITED NATURE OF POSSIBLE DEFENSIVE ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA AND EXPLAINING IN DETAIL OUR INTERPRETATION OF ASSURANCES RECEIVED FROM SIAD. HE SAID THAT WE INTENDED ANY US DEFENSIVE ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA TO BE LIMITED IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY AS COMPARED TO OUR SUPPORT OF KENYA. HE REMARKED THAT WE ASSUMED IT WAS IN KENYA'S INTEREST AS WELL AS OUR OWN TO PROVIDE
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CONTROLLED AND LIMITED MILITARY SUPPORT WHICH WOULD AVOID LEAVING SOMALIS WITH NO OPTION BUT TO RETURN TO SOVIET ORBIT. HARROP EXPRESSED CLEARLY OUR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE JOINT KENYA-ETHIOPIAN COMMUNIQUE MADE AT THE END OF WAIYAKI'S RECENT VISIT TO ADDIS. HE ALSO ASKED WAIYAKI WHETHER HE FELT THAT LONG-TERM SOVIET-CUBAN ENTRENCHMENT IN AN INCREASINGLY

REVOLUTIONARY AND MARXIST ETHIOPIA WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO KENYA. FINALLY, HARROP THANKED FOREIGN MINISTER FOR HIS INTERVENTION WITH THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD ASSISTED US TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT FOR OUR NEW AMBASSADOR.

3. WAIYAKI BEGAN HIS RESPONSE BY SAYING THAT KENYA, TOO, WANTED TO BRING ITS RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA BACK TO A MORE CORRECT FOOTING. HE HAD CALLED IN THE NEW SOMALI AMBASSADOR THIS WEEK TO TALK OVER THE SITUATION AND DISCUSS MEASURES THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS. WAIYAKI NOTED THAT, THE DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS NOTWITHSTANDING, KENYA REMAINED CONVINCED THAT IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SOMALIA WOULD EVER ABANDON ITS DREAM OF A GREATER SOMALIA. HIS GOVERNMENT COULD UNDERSTAND THE SOMALI DESIRE TO GATHER ALL OF THE ETHNIC SOMALIS INTO ONE NATION-STATE, BUT KENYA WAS NOT PREPARED TO SACRIFICE HER TERRITORY TO ENABLE THE SOMALIS TO REALIZE THIS AMBITION.

4. WAIYAKI SAID THAT NEITHER KENYA NOR ETHIOPIA CONSIDERED THE OGADEN WAR TO BE OVER. THUS, ETHIOPIAN/KENYAN COMMUNIQUE HAD BEEN PHRASED INTENTIONALLY STRONGLY TO DISCOURAGE FURTHER SUPPORT (PARTICULARLY ARAB) FOR SIAD'S AGGRESSION. KENYAN INTELLIGENCE HAD GOOD EVIDENCE THAT SIAD WAS STILL SUPPORTING THE OGADENI INSURGENTS, AND THEY HAD CREDIBLE REPORTS THAT SOMALI TROOPS DRESSED IN MUFTI WERE ONCE AGAIN CROSSING INTO THE OGADEN TO ASSIST THE GUERRILLAS. HARROP SAID THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE KENYA'S SHARING SUCH EVIDENCE WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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US SINCE IT COULD HAVE BEARING UPON OUR POLICY. WAIYAKI SEEMED TO AGREE THAT HE WOULD, BUT MADE NO OFFER TO PROVIDE SPECIFICS.

5. WAIYAKI SAID THAT KENYAN INTELLIGENCE ALSO HAD EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED SOMALI CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIETS. HIS SERVICES HAD HEARD THAT THE SOMALI VICE PRESIDENT WAS PLANNING A TRIP TO MOSCOW. WAIYAKI SAID THAT WHILE A SOMALI SWITCH BACK TO THE SOVIETS WOULD BE DIFFICULT, THE POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED IF MOGADISCIO WERE UNABLE TO FIND OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT. REPLYING TO QUESTION ABOUT THE EFFECTS ON KENYA OF LONG-TERM SOVIET PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA, WAIYAKI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A FULLY COMMUNIST ETHIOPIA, BUTTRESSED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS, WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY CONSTITUTE A DANGER TO KENYA. SUCH A REGIME WOULD, HE CONCEDED, LOOK WITH ENVY AND MALICE AT A PROSPEROUS, CAPITALIST KENYA AND UNDERTAKE EFFORTS TO SUBVERT IT. BUT WAIYAKI CONCLUDED BY REITERATING THE COMMON KENYAN CONVICTION THAT IT WAS EXCEEDINGLY UNLIKELY ETHIOPIA WOULD EVER BECOME A GENUINELY COMMUNIST COUNTRY.

6. WAIYAKI SAID IT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP IF THE ARAB NATIONS SYMPATHETIC TO SOMALIA COULD BE INDUCED TO HELP TURN SIAD

FROM HIS WAR-LIKE WAYS. HARROP ASSURED THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH THE SAUDIS, THE EGYPTIANS, AND THE SUDANESE.

7. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER MADE NO PROTEST ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS TOWARD SOMALIA. INTELLECTUALLY, WAIYAKI CERTAINLY UNDERSTANDS THE MOTIVES BEHIND OUR POLICY, ALTHOUGH HE AND OTHER KENYANS WILL REMAIN DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE GRIM SECURITY THREAT THEY CONTINUE TO SEE FROM SOMALIA AND WORRIED ABOUT ANY INCREASE IN SOMALI MILITARY POTENTIAL. WAIYAKI MADE NO COMMENT REGARDING OUR ASSISTANCE TO KENYA, BUT WE SHOULD PLAN TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH THE KENYANS ON FURTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE. OUR CREDIBILITY SHOULD BE ENHANCED BY THE DEMONSTRATION THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO SACRIFICE KENYAN
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INTERESTS AS WE SEEK TO LIMIT SOVIET-CUBAN INFLUENCE IN THE HORN.
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